GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3875
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2005
FUND FOR AGRICULTURE TRAINING AND PUBLICITY PROGRAMME
Singh Shri Ganesh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has provided assistance for Agriculture Extension Training and Publicity Programme to the State Governments;

(b) if so, the number of such Agriculture Extension and training Centres functioning in the country particularly in Madhya Pradesh at present;

(c) whether the Government had made adequate budget provisions for the strengthening and maintenance of these centers under the macro-management scheme;

(d) whether the above provisions have been withdrawn since 2004-05;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Union Government have received any request for the continuation of Macro- Management Scheme from the above State Government; and

(g) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): The Government of India has recently launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme viz., `Support to State Extension Programme for Extension Reforms` with an outlay of Rs.226.07 crores for the Tenth Plan Period for implementation in 254 districts in the country. Demonstrations, exposure visits, training, information dissemination through printed literature are some of the eligible activities under the Scheme. An amount of Rs.1330.00 lakh has been released to the State Governments.

(b): The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has established a network of farm science centers called Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the country. Functions of these KVKs are technology assessment/training of farmers/extension functionaries and conduct front-line demonstrations. So far, 488 KVKs have been established in various States of the country, of which 36 KVKs are in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

In addition, 19 Agriculture Extension and training Centers and one State Institute of Agriculture Extension and Training of the State Government are functioning.

(c) to (e): The funds for KVKs do not come from the Macro Management Scheme.

The funds under the scheme `Support to State Extension Programme for Extension Reforms` are provided to States on Work Plan basis. An amount of Rs.100.00 lakh has been released to Madhya Pradesh during 2005-06. The guidelines of the Scheme `Support to State Extension Programme for Extension Reforms` provide flexibility to States in implementing extension activities through both governmental and non-governmental agencies.

(f): The Macro Management Scheme, under implementation in all States/UTs, is continued in the X Plan.

(g): Does not arise.